

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously presented) A multifunctional synthetic bioabsorbable device comprising:
 - a synthetic bioabsorbable polymeric matrix
 - particles of an additive agent in the form of pharmacological agent,
 - cavities induced around the particles of the additive agent dispersed in said synthetic bioabsorbable polymeric matrix, said cavities existing in said matrix as a result of mechanical processing of a mixture of the matrix and said particles.
2. (Currently Amended) The multifunctional device of claim 1, wherein the device has reduced Young's modulus and increased elasticity in comparison with a device comprising the same synthetic bioabsorbable polymeric matrix and processed in the same way but comprising no particles of an additive agent in the form of pharmacological agent, the reduced Young's modulus and increased elasticity being because of a cavitated spindle-shaped or oval-shaped porous structure resulting from the processing of said mixture.
3. (Currently Amended) The multifunctional device of claim 1, wherein the device is a suture, fiber, thread, cord, or wire,~~or any derivative of these.~~
4. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 3, wherein the device is a mesh.
5. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 4, wherein the device is a mesh comprising fibers of differing bioabsorbable properties.
6. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 5, wherein the mesh comprises bioabsorbable fibers and non-bioabsorbable fibers, or fibers of differing bioabsorption rates.

7. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 1, wherein the additive agent is an antibiotic.
8. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 2, wherein the additive agent is an antibiotic.
9. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 3, wherein the additive agent is an antibiotic.
10. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 1, wherein said additive agent comprises 0.01 to 50 wt-% of the weight of the said multifunctional device.
11. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 2, wherein said additive agent comprises 0.01 to 50 wt-% of the weight of the said multifunctional device.
12. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 3, wherein said additive agent comprises 0.01 to 50 wt-% of the weight of the said multifunctional device.
13. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 10, wherein said additive agent comprises 1-10 wt-% of the weight of the said multifunctional device.
14. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 11, wherein said additive agent comprises 1-10 wt-% of the weight of the said multifunctional device.
15. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 12, wherein said additive agent comprises 1-10 wt-% of the weight of the said multifunctional device.
16. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 3, wherein the said multifunctional device is monofilamentous in its structure.
17. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 4, wherein the said

multifunctional device is monofilamentous in its structure.

18. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 7, wherein the said multifunctional device is monofilamentous in its structure.

19. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 3, wherein the said multifunctional device is multifilamentous in its structure.

20. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 4, wherein the said multifunctional device is multifilamentous in its structure.

21. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 7, wherein the said multifunctional device is multifilamentous in its structure.

22. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 1, wherein the said multifunctional device has a drug releasing function effective to inhibit bacterial attachment and biofilm formation.

23. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 2, wherein the said multifunctional device has a drug releasing function effective to inhibit bacterial attachment and biofilm formation.

24. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 3, wherein the said multifunctional device has a drug releasing function effective to inhibit bacterial attachment and biofilm formation.

25. (Currently Amended) The multifunctional device of claim 1, wherein the said multifunctional device ~~it~~ is made by melt or solution processing technique and subsequent processing method.

26. (Previously presented) The multifunctional device of claim 25, wherein the subsequent

processing method is fiber spinning.

27. (Cancelled).

28. (New) A method of implanting the multifunctional device of claim 1, comprising implanting the said multifunctional device in a subject.

29. (New) A method of manufacturing the multifunctional synthetic bioabsorbable device of claim 1, comprising:

- providing a synthetic bioabsorbable polymeric matrix,
- dispersing particles of an additive agent in the form of pharmacological agent in said synthetic bioabsorbable polymeric matrix,
- mechanically processing a mixture of the matrix and particles to induce cavities around said particles.